

Amendments to the Drawings

In Figure 10:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

In Figure 11:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

In Figure 12:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

In Figure 13:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

In Figure 14:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

In Figure 15:

Add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto.

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 2 being independent. Claims 1-5 are amended herein for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form. In addition, the abutting step in Claims 1 and 2 has been amended to overcome a substantive rejection and the last line of Claim 1 and the penultimate line of Claim 2 have been amended to overcome a formal rejection.

Drawing Objections

Figures 10-15 have been objected to because they are not labeled as being prior art. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Figures 10-15 have been amended to add the legend --PRIOR ART-- thereto and corrected formal drawings thereof are attached. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

Formal Rejection

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the Examiner objects to the phrase “penetrating the flange member through a shaft of the magnet” in Claims 1 and 2 and suggests specific claim language to overcome the rejection. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to adopt the Examiner’s suggestion, thereby obviating the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Substitute Specification

Attached are clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification that amends the specification for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve its form.

Substantive Rejection

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Parks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,608,737).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to an assembling method for a developing roller usable with a developing device, the developing roller including a developer carrying member in the form of a hollow cylinder, a flange member provided at an end of the developer carrying member, and a magnet provided in the developer carrying member. The method comprises an

inserting step of inserting the magnet having at least one projection into the inside of the developer carrying member through an opening therein, an abutting step of abutting the at least one projection to an inside surface of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member, and an engaging step of engaging the flange member with the opening by penetrating the flange member with a shaft of the magnet projected out of the opening after the abutting step.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the abutting step abuts the at least one projection to an inside surface of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member to reduce an eccentricity between the axis of the magnet and the axis of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member.

Independent Claim 2 relates to an assembling method for a developing roller usable with a developing device, the developing roller including a developer carrying member, a flange member provided at an end of the developer carrying member, and a magnet provided in the developer carrying member. The method comprises an inserting step of inserting the magnet, which has a columnar configuration having a non-circular cross-section and which has at least one outer projection, into the inside of the developer carrying member, which has a hollow cylindrical shape, an abutting step of abutting the at least one outer projection to an inside surface of the cylindrical developer carrying member, and an engaging step of engaging the flange member with an opening of the developer carrying member by penetrating the flange member with a shaft of the magnet projected out of the opening after the abutting step.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the abutting step abuts the at least one outer projection to an inside surface of the cylindrical developer carrying member to reduce an

eccentricity between the axis of the magnet and the axis of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member.

By this arrangement, the eccentricity between the axis of the magnet and the axis of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member is effectively reduced, so that the shaft of the magnet projected out of the opening can be easily penetrated through the flange member.

In contrast, the patent to Parks et al. is understood to merely show that a contactor or brush 62, which the Office Action identifies as corresponding to the claimed projection, contacts the inside surface of a shell 10 to establish a current path (column 3, lines 8-16). The brush 62 is not understood to be disclosed to reduce the eccentricity between the axis of the shell 10 and the axis of the hub 26. This is because the contact brush 62 is understood to be biased by the spring 66, and therefore, when the contact brush 62 is urged to the inside of the shell 10, the spring 66 contracts, which is understood to increase the eccentricity between the axis of the shell 10 and the axis of the hub 26.

Accordingly, the Parks et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest an abutting step that abuts at least one projection of a magnet to an inside surface of a hollow cylinder of a developer carrying member to reduce an eccentricity between the axis of a magnet and the axis of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member, as recited by amended Claim 1. And, the Parks et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest an abutting step that abuts at least one outer projection of a magnet to an inside surface of a cylindrical developer carrying member to reduce an eccentricity between the axis of the magnet and the axis of the hollow cylinder of the developer carrying member, as recited by amended Claim 2.

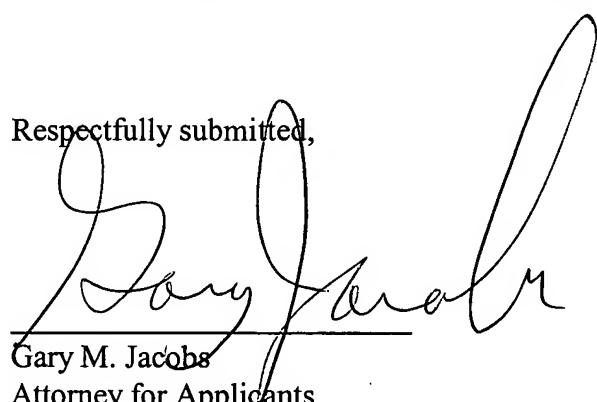
For these reasons, Applicants submit that amended Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by the Parks et al. patent.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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